



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, August 11, 2011**

**Scottsdale Stadium, Pressbox  
7408 E. Osborn Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257**

**SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Howard Myers, Chairman  
James Heitel, Vice Chairman (left 6:53 p.m.)  
Fred Klein, Commissioner (telephonic; from 5:04 to 5:56 p.m.)  
Susan Wheeler, Commissioner  
Linda Whitehead, Commissioner  
Rand Hubbell, Commissioner  
BJ Heggli, Commissioner  
Deke Joralmon, Commissioner  
Melinda Gulick, Commissioner  
Carla, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Bill Murphy  
Kroy Ekblaw  
Claire Miller  
Robbin Schweitzer  
Scott Hamilton  
Robin Rogers

**GUESTS:** David Hay  
Con Englehorn

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of June 2, 2011

**COMMISSIONER WHITEHEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2011. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBELL, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF NINE (9) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER CARLA ABSTAINED, CITING HER ABSENCE.**

**5. NAMING PROPOSAL - Amphitheater at Lost Dog Wash Trailhead to be named for Chet Andrews**

Mr. Ekblaw said that the request to name the Lost Dog Wash Trailhead for Chet Andrews met all of the criteria in the revised naming process and Chet Andrews humbly accepted the recognition. A recommendation could be prepared in time for the September 20, 2011 City Council meeting.

Commissioners commented regarding Chet Andrews' contributions to the Preserve, the ceremony and plaque inscription, and future naming proposals being postponed until the official Preserve history is completed.

Commissioner Whitehead commented that the minutes of the May 11 meeting of the DDC Phase III Feasibility Committee incorrectly state that the Phase III Work Program was approved by the MSPC. The Preserve Commission did not approve the Phase III Program as submitted because that commission had additional concerns it wanted the Phase III Committee to be directed to address. She asked that the Phase III Committee be given copies of the minutes of the September 29, 2010 joint meeting of the MSPC and TDC and of the November 4, 2010 meeting of the MSPC so committee members will have a better understanding of the concerns the Preserve Commission felt needed to be addressed.

**COMMISSIONER CARLA MOVED TO SEND A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL THAT LOST DOG WASH AMPHETHEATRE BE NAMED FOR CHET ANDREWS AND THAT THE PLAQUE INCLUDE CHET'S FAVORITE SAYING: "IT'S A PRESERVE, NOT A PARK." SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR HEITEL, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF TEN (10) TO ZERO (0).**

**6. COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

- **Land Resources Task Force (Development of Preserve Options Report)**

**7. 2012 AQUISITION & RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL / 2011 STATUS**

To listen to this meeting in its entirety, please go to [www.scottsdaleaz.gov](http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov), click on Mayor, Council, and Government, click on Boards and Commissions, click on McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, click on Meeting Audios/Videos, go to Archived Videos (at the bottom) and click on the meeting you wish to listen to. Computers are available for public use at Scottsdale's public libraries.

Mr. Ekblaw said that Scottsdale submitted two applications focusing first on activity in Priority 2 and 3 areas. He explained that of the \$80 million available \$40 million can be given to any one county. Because the only four applications received were from Maricopa County, two from Scottsdale and two from Phoenix, with requests exceeding the \$40 million, the Advisory Board recommended that the dollars be allocated on an equal percentage basis, which would equate to approximately \$36 million for Scottsdale. Final awards are expected to be granted on September 14.

Based on the State Land Appeals Board approval of the appraisals, the notice of auctions is expected to be set for sometime in November. Scottsdale has requested that separate auctions be conducted two weeks apart so the submissions can go through the City Council approval process independently.

Mr. Ekblaw reviewed the current appraisals and proposals; possible future proposals and matching grant funds; the draft map of the remaining Preserve Acquisition Trust Lands; and rezoning possibilities, which he stressed would be based on the current General Plan.

Commission Members were given the opportunity to make comments and have their questions answered.

**COMMISSIONER GULICK MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED WITH THE ZONING CASE AND INITIAE STATE LAND SALES APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2012 STRATEGIC ACQUISITION PLAN MOVING FROM EAST TO WEST ON THE PARCELS PROVIDED ON THE MAPS AS PRESENTED BY STAFF. SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR HEITEL, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF TEN (10) TO ZERO (0).**

Further discussion ensued regarding the bonding process and voter polling.

## **8. 128TH STREET EXISTING TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Mr. Ekblaw provided a status report regarding 128th Street and the Tom's Thumb Trailhead including historical information, utility right-of-way, the bike trail, and neighborhood access. A Game and Fish study was approved and will be ongoing for approximately a year. Jim Ford has been invited to attend a meeting in September or October to discuss emergency access considerations.

Discussion ensued regarding residential access, the tentative trails plan, and the language in the Transportation Plan regarding the land bridge.

## **9. STAFF REPORTS**

- **North Area Update**

### **Tom's Thumb Update**

Mr. Hamilton explained that the construction documents have been completed. A pre-bid meeting was held on August 2 and the resulting recommendations are scheduled for

City Council on September 13, 2011. Construction is expected to begin in October and continue until June 2012.

#### **Brown's Ranch Update**

Mr. Hamilton updated the Commission on the outcome of the first open house and noted that development of the conceptual design plan is ongoing and a traffic impact analysis will be conducted. A further update will be provided to the Commission in the October time frame prior to the second open house. Construction is expected to begin in the first part of 2012.

#### **Fourth of July Recap**

Ms. Miller discussed the Fourth of July activities and benefits of the 3:00 p.m. closure of the Preserve during the holiday. No incidents were reported. Discussion ensued about people entering the Preserve in the evenings after the gates are closed, particularly during the full moon. Ms. Miller reviewed the efforts of the Police Department and talked about the electronic media being used to collect intelligence about after-hours activities.

- **Financial Update (handout)**

Mr. Ekblaw noted that an updated handout would be prepared in time for the next Commission meeting.

- **Desert Discovery Center Phase III Feasibility Committee**

Mr. Ekblaw noted that the DDC Phase III Feasibility Committee has been meeting once a month and will increase their meetings to twice a month as they get more specific with the analysis. Once formed, recommendations for the project, including funding and operational aspects, will be shared with the Commission. The Committee's recommendations are expected to be prepared and sent forward to City Council by the end of the year.

Commission Members expressed concerns about the perception the DDC Phase III Feasibility Committee has of the Phase II recommendations put forth to City Council by the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission.

- **June/July City Council Actions**

#### **APS**

Mr. Ekblaw noted that City Council did approve the agreement with APS and access control is expected to start in September with full construction beginning in November.

#### **Arizona Game & Fish**

Mr. Hamilton noted that City Council approved the agreement between the City of Scottsdale and Game and Fish to do survey work. The final survey report should be completed in August/September of 2012.

#### **Jane Rau Trail**

Mr. Ekblaw noted that City Council unanimously approved the naming of the Jane Rau Trail. Future updates will be provided to the Commission.

- **Off-Leash**

Mr. Murphy explained that informational cards similar to those used in the parks are being handed out in the Preserve in hopes of educating the public on the leash laws as outlined in the Ordinance. He recommended reading an article in the Arizona Star discussing the benefits to the economy of hiking, mountain biking, and mountain climbing.

- **City Council Meeting 8/23/11**

Mr. Murphy highlighted the City Council discussions regarding Boards and Commissions. The Ordinance is scheduled to be discussed on September 13 as part of the regular agenda. It is anticipated that the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission will be downsized to seven commissioners and subcommittees will be removed with the understanding that any future subcommittees will be approved by City Council before they are enacted. Board and Commission nominations will be taking place on August 29; the Commission will have one opening.

The Mayor's Breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, October 13 at the Gateway, starting at 7:30 a.m. Discussion will include the Land Acquisition.

**10. Meeting Date for September**

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of changing the date for the September meeting based on the new Commissioner appointments. It was consensus of the Commission to leave the meeting scheduled for September 1st.

**11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Gulick thanked Chairman Myers for his efforts in keeping the meetings focused and on schedule.

Commissioner Wheeler thanked Mr. Ekblaw and the other staff involved in dealing with the State Land Department for their efforts.

**12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 2011**

- **North Area, trails, access, control**
- **Completion of the Land Acquisition Plan & follow on Commission Action Plan**
- **Tasks to complete the Preserve Management Plan**
- **North Area Transportation Plan**

Commissioners requested that a discussion regarding the Land Acquisition be included as part of the polling survey and an update on the possibility of writing the Preserve history be included on the September agenda.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.